

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28.

The *Watchman and Southern* was founded in 1850 and the *True Southern* in 1866. The *Watchman and Southern* now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

A long letter from Geo. McCrady to the *Greenville News* on the Census question, is well worth reading. The writer being a Charlestonian, of course is anxious for her good name, but the letter is written in a spirit of admirable fairness, and will tend to relieve Charleston of much of the stigma resting on her for legislating in her own interest and in opposition to the rest of the State. We think it best that there should be two parties in the Legislature, as they serve as a check, each on the other, but are confident that they should not be sectional, and are therefore glad to see such fair-minded letters as Geo. McCrady's.

Gen. Sheridan's plan for settling the Indian question seems to be the most feasible. Stripped of details, it will result in placing them on lands of their own, to which they will have an individual claim, and thereby break up their tribal relations. The Government to take all the lands not needed in settling the Indians at a fixed price, issue bonds for that amount and pay the Indians the proceeds. The passage and enforcement of such a law would solve many of the difficulties connected with the Indians, and the mutual recalcitancies of both the Indians and the United States agents.

There has been an interesting discussion in the columns of the North Carolina Presbyterian over the subject of church suppers, fairs, &c., as a means of raising money. Neither side has convinced the other, and the argument seems to be a drawn battle, though it seems to us the negative ought to have the best of the argument. Raising money by means of fairs for religious purposes seems inconsistent, and we think the good, old-fashioned way of taking it out of one's pocket and putting it in the collection basket, the best way after all. Voting for the prettiest girl or the ugliest man or the most eloquent preacher, will hardly call down many blessings upon the givers.

The Republican majority in the U. S. Senate have refused to confirm all Presidential appointments to fill places made vacant by the removal of the former officials, and have called on the heads of departments for reasons for these removals. We hardly think the Senate will make much by their partisan course. The President has a legal right to remove incumbents during the recess of Congress, and the refusal of the Senate to confirm the appointments will not restore the former office-holders. It merely makes it necessary for the President to send in some other appointment. We see no earthly good—not even political capital—to result from their fight on the President.

At a late meeting of the Grant Monument Fund committee it was proposed to have a set of lectures for the purpose of raising money, and several notable lecturers were proposed. Finally it was suggested that a lecture on Sherman's march to the sea, would be a popular theme and if Sherman himself would deliver the lecture, it would insure an overwhelming audience. The old barn burner happened to be present and jumping up, said he would not deliver such a lecture for \$1,000,000. This speaks well for Sherman. Conscience is beginning to work, and knowing that his marauding expedition through Georgia and the Carolinas will go down to history as a companion piece to the devastating forays of the Goths through the countries of Southern Europe, or the bloody march of Graham of Claverhouse among the Scotch Covenanters, he wisely declines publishing his own blame.

We referred two weeks ago to the proposition made by a correspondent of the *News and Courier* favoring a change in the Legislature by which one half the number should represent property and the other population. The expected attack on these heretical views has been fully as lively as was anticipated. We have given from time to time some of the opinions of our exchanges on that subject, and give one this week from the *Abbeville Press and Banner*. All of which goes to show that quite a number of people in South Carolina sturdily oppose the new plan. We think the suggested plan most objectionable. Whether it made changes or not the outcome would be bad, and objectionable legislation would be more strongly criticised than even now.

The Carolina *Spartan* contrasts the poverty made apparent in Greenville city by the late cold weather, with that of Spartanburg, and intimates that the liquor business of Greenville did not seem to make that city as prosperous as it might be. It seems to us a waste of time to try and convince people that liquor shops make the poor man poorer. It is the man who lives on daily wages, whittled down to the lowest point, that suffers most from the saloon. His one or two or three drinks per day makes all the difference between living in moderate comfort and existing in such a hand to mouth style that a week's inclement weather will put him on the brink. People are often poor without any aid in that direction from the saloon, but that blighting institution

never fails to add poverty and misery. Every dime passed over the bar is that much absolutely thrown away as far as the original owner is concerned.

Ex-Collector E. M. Brayton is using all his influence to prevent the confirmation by the Senate of his successor, D. F. Bradley. Among other arguments he is using, he has collected the editorials written by Mr. Bradley while editor of the *Pickens Sentinel*, in which he exonerates the revenue officials for their villainous conduct while in the employ of a Republican administration, and will have them read in the Senate as proof, we suppose, that he is an un-reconstructed rebel, or at least that he is not disinterestedly in speaking of some of the servants of the administration. It seems to us that these editorials ought to be a recommendation instead of the contrary to our present Collector. The hang-dog crowd which went to make up the revenue service of the United States, in the upper part of this State, ought to have called for maledictions from a heart of stone. Oh, it was a charming assortment of rascals, and no words of contempt used by the *Pickens Sentinel* could come amiss in speaking of those rogues. Of course Mr. Brayton does not expect to get his place back, he is probably working for the future.

A week never passes but what one or more strikes, by dissatisfied workers, are reported. They constantly increase in frequency and bitterness, and there is one noticeable fact connected with these lawless proceedings—the larger part of the strikers are foreigners. Accustomed as they are in their own country to the stern rule of a semi-despotism the freedom of our country changes them into anarchists. As far as we can recall, every prominent leader of communism is a foreigner, and they abuse the liberty vouchsafed to the citizens of the Republic, by sowing broadcast their criminal doctrines. At a strike now going on in the Pennsylvania coal fields, Hungarians are the principal rioters. In the murderous assault upon the Chinese on the Pacific coast some weeks ago, Poles were the leaders and instigators, and so we will find that native born Americans have but little to do in organizing the bloody strikes which now constitute so large a part of the daily news.

BRICK WITHOUT STRAW.

A subscriber said some days ago that he would in a short time pay what he owed and stop his paper; that a careful perusal of its pages had convinced him that we felt no interest whatever in his work and therefore he believed the paper to be inimical to him. Now this person occupies a position which, to some extent, is a public one; he knows this paper is interested, deeply interested, in occupations similar to his own, but he has never opened his mouth to us as to his work or its success, has never even asked us to call around and see for ourselves; and yet after sitting back and watching us for months to see what we will say about him; he comes forward and says: "stop my paper because you never say a word about me or my business."

Now this is by no means a solitary case. Similar instances are continually occurring which go to show how unreasonable some persons can be.

Publishing a paper is a matter of business pure and simple. The editor desires to fill his paper with news and especially local news, because it pays. Our city dailies have a corps of paid reporters whose business it is to hunt up these local items, but we cannot afford that expense, and are dependent upon our subscribers to a great degree for such matter. It pays us to get up a good paper; it pays our subscribers to help us as far as giving us the news is concerned, and that help could be given with but the slightest inconvenience to them. How ungenerous then is it for them not only to refuse to give us this small assistance, but to fly off the handle and cry: "Stop my paper," because we can not divine intuitively what they wish said about them.

We want the news, we want the happenings from all over the County; we want to know of the enterprises of public interest and it does not concern us whether the projector of the enterprise is an intimate friend or not. We would publish it just as soon for a man we dislike as for one we like. In fact likes and dislikes have nothing to do with publishing a county paper, and no unprejudiced man who is well acquainted with the editor can read one without being satisfied of that fact. The local page of a County paper should mainly represent facts and not opinions.

We say this much because it seems to be a popular delusion that a newspaper man can absorb news by some process which obviates the necessity of using the ordinary channels; that he knows everything of importance occurring in the county, and when he does not publish these things, it is either because he is too lazy to write them up, or is mad with the man connected with the event. Now this is all a mistake. We get the news when it is sent to us through the mails, or given us verbally, just as ordinary mortals do. If our subscribers will look at us in this way, and expect nothing supernatural from us, there will be a great gain to their satisfaction and our prosperity.

One more suggestion. When a man controlling any business enterprise gets the correspondent of some large city paper to inspect his business and write it up, but says nothing to us about copying the correspondence, we have every reason to think he does not wish us to publish it, and though we want

news, we do not wish it without the consent of the party most interested. All we ask at such times is the request to copy the correspondence, and our answer will always be "with pleasure."

THE RECENT EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS.

The examination of teachers in the public schools of Newberry County for the ensuing year was held last week in the School Commissioner's office. There were a number of applicants, the most of whom succeeded in their efforts to obtain certificates enabling them to teach in the public schools and to draw pay from the public treasury.

The questions for examination were very much as they have been for many years. A very liberal percentage of them are purely "catch-questions" and do not, in the slightest, determine one's competency to teach. Some are very excellent questions, and upon the answers given to these, we venture to remark, without knowing anything of the method of grading adopted by the examining officers, was the applicant's ability or inability to teach made manifest. We do not know the gentlemen composing the State Board of Education, nor do we even know their names; but we must say that either they have no experience as practical teachers, or they have very little solicitude over their questions for the examination of teachers.—*Newberry Herald and News*.

We agree with the *Herald and News* to some extent in its strictures. A very liberal percentage of them are purely catch questions and do not in the slightest determine one's competency to teach. We were, however, pleased with most of the questions, our main objection being to the fact that they were too simple for a "First Grade." There were ten questions in each department, and a correct answer of eight would insure a first grade. Not more than an average of two of the pertinent questions were difficult, so that those applicants who were lucky enough to be able to answer the "catch-questions" got a first grade certificate without, perhaps being able to answer a single question requiring the advancement necessary for the first grade.

We are devout believers in the necessity of educated teachers. No other profession in the country depends so largely on an extent upon ill-informed, misinformed and not-at-all-informed persons as leaders, as does that of teaching; as there is need of constant and watchful care on the part of both State and County Boards of Examiners. If would-be teachers can be made to understand that a due amount of mental preparation is absolutely required before a certificate can be given, it would cause a literary revolution among that class. We are glad to believe that Sumter County is far above the average in a proper administration of the requirements of the school law. The large number of failures on the part of applicants to get certificates, is a proof of the care exercised by the school officials, while the many first-class papers from the hands of applicants is evidence of the mental competency possessed by some of our faithful teachers.

THE COLD IN FLORIDA.

Reports from Florida place her loss, resulting from the freeze, at \$2,000,000. The damage to orange groves and the fruit is placed at \$1,100,000, while the injury to pineapples and other tropical fruits swell the loss to two millions. It is thought that the young nursery trees in the upper part of the State are badly top killed, though by no means a total loss; the bearing trees are injured to the extent of losing the Fall crop of fruit, and a largely diminished yield for 1886 may be expected. Pineapples and other tender tropical growth have been killed to the ground.

Road Gates.

The following Act is said to have been passed at the recent session of the Legislature, and is of importance to some of our readers:

"That the owner or keeper of any gate which obstructs a highway, either public or private, shall have such gate constructed so as to afford a roadway between the posts of at least nine feet, and shall keep the said gate in such repair and condition as to be easily opened or shut, and that the latch or other fastening will adjust itself on being closed; and, further, that the said keeper shall erect or cause to be erected at convenient distance from such gate, on each side, a suitable hitching post for the convenience of those traveling in vehicles. That the owner or keeper of such gate who shall fail to comply with the requirements of this Act shall, upon conviction, for each offense pay a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars, or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not exceeding thirty days."

Dogs and Soreheads.

The (Charleston) S. C. *Advocate* publishes a column of Editorial Items which we always enjoy reading. We append two:

If the hydrophobia scare now filling the papers with incidents and the people with dread, could but fall upon the legislatures of the Southern States, it might be serviceable in encouraging a law to protect men, sheep and game alike. There are not only a luxury to be taxed, but a serious danger to be feared. They make sheep-farming an impossibility in this State, simply because lawmakers dare not, it seems, let a sufficient tax upon them. Let the next political issue be the taxation of dogs at such a rate as to force the killing of four-fifths of them.

There are a number of Democrats in Congress who seem bent on putting the Republican party back into power as soon as the Constitution allows. They are men of the "rule or ruin" class, who would risk the peace of fifty millions of people for a matter of pique, and kick themselves out of power to spite somebody else. President Cleveland has not gorged these patriots with official plunder, and they wish to read him a lesson by antagonizing his policy, a policy acceptable to the people at large. These

politicians know not the day of their visitation. The man that saved off the limb he sat on and attended his own funeral next day, left a numerous progeny, many of whom seem to have gone to Congress.

The "Indian" Taken Down.

The following from the Camden *Journal* will be interesting to many of our readers whose recollections of Camden always include the "Indian" who with drawn bow and arrow ever stood facing the wind:

On Thursday last week the weather was, (the old Indian) that has been doing duty on the pinnacle of the market steeple since 1859, was taken down in order to have it repainted and regilded before placing it upon the steeple of the new Opera House, to continue his business as a weather indicator.

Alber Humbert, colored, was the daring fellow who climbed up the spire and lifted the old Indian from the pinnacle.

It is the prettiest design for a weather vane that we have ever seen, and all strangers who visit our town express their admiration of it. It is said to have been designed by Capt. Mordacai Levy in 1826, and was made by a Frenchman named John B. Mathew. It was placed upon the old market steeple (that formerly stood on the lot opposite the Court House) in 1827, and remained there until that building was torn down in 1859, when the Indian and town clock were removed to the steeple of what was then the new Town Hall.

The figure represents an Indian hunter in the act of shooting an arrow from his bow, pointing in the direction the wind is blowing from. He has a quiver full of arrows at his back and a knife at his waist; also the eagle feathers rising above his head. It is said to have been modeled after King Hagler, an old Chief of the Catawbas. The figure measures 5 feet 1 inch from the sole of his feet to the top of his head.

The Trial of Tobacco.

The farmers who have been appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture to test the cultivation of tobacco in their respective counties have been selected with great care, and we are informed, and the list of names certainly warrants the assurance that the proposed experiment will be intelligently conducted.

The work to be performed by these gentlemen and others hereafter to be chosen is one of great interest to the people of South Carolina, and it is difficult to overestimate its importance and value, if the experiment, in general, shall be rewarded with even a fair measure of success. The knowledge which will be gained this year will determine, in the first place, whether South Carolina can hope to share the prosperity which the tobacco crop has brought to States to the North of us, and, in event of a favorable result, will be of great use in directing the more extended operations which will follow next year.

It was a prudent step to test the new crop by the plan that has been adopted, instead of going into it headlong, without knowledge, and without counting the cost; and it may reasonably be expected that the widespread experiments to be made under the auspices of the Agricultural department and of the *News and Courier* will go far to determine the question involved, either one way or other.—*News and Courier*.

[From our Regular Correspondent.] WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 22, 1886. Our lawmakers on Capitol Hill have had before them this week much miscellaneous matter and many minor measures. It would be less difficult to state what questions were not touched upon by them than to mention those that have been discussed. In the Senate silver has been the chief subject of debate, but in the House, there has been a little of almost everything.

The President lost time in affixing his signature to the Succession bill. This measure is thought by some to be far from perfect. Still, it will serve for the present to prevent uncertainty in the event of the death of the President, and it will give assurance that the administration of the Government will continue under the party to which the people confided it, for the full term of four years. The measure will probably always be known by the name of the "Hoar bill," but it was, in truth, a conception of Attorney General Garland, and was originally framed and presented by him. Failing of passage, it was afterwards adopted by Senator Hoar of Massachusetts, and has taken his name.

There is an interesting controversy now between the Administration and the Senate in regard to the suspension of federal officials. The Republican Senators caucused on the subject and decided to ask for papers bearing on removals and appointments. The President instructed the Cabinet officers to send such papers. The Republican Senators, or rather some of their managers, Edmunds, Hoar, Morrill and others were not satisfied with the information contained in these documents, and forthwith put on their war paint. They got all they asked for, but they were more, and confessed that there was an error in the form of the request for information. Senator Edmunds made a long speech in which he took the ground that the Executive branch of the Government could and should be made to furnish all of the information in its possession and the reasons touching the suspension of officials. Senator Salisbury, a Democrat from Delaware, replied in defense of the Administration, holding that the Senate had no right to inquire into the reasons for suspension. The partisan Senator from Vt. became still more positive, and said he was in favor of bringing the members of the Cabinet before the Senate Committee, if necessary, to ascertain the information upon which suspensions had been made. He further gave notice that he would oppose the confirmation of the successor of every suspended official, unless the Administration would at least say there was no information in its possession bearing on them.

The Democratic Senators caucused in regard to the course they should pursue towards the President's appointments. They had special reference to what the Republican Senators might demand in the way of information concerning the reasons for official changes made by the President. The general sentiment expressed in caucus was that the President should be sustained in whatever course he may take. Mr. Cleveland is averse to anything having even the appearance of bringing executive pressure to bear

upon Congress. He is not willing to exert any influence, even indirectly, upon the members of his own party. When asked by representatives of the caucus as to what he would have them do he replied, "Use your own discretion, your own judgment as to what is right and proper."

The week has been a very quiet one in the official, social world of the Capitol. Through respect to the bereaved Cabinet family, that of the Secretary of State, Miss Cleveland countermanded her tri-weekly receptions and none of the Cabinet ladies received. The second State dinner of the season was held at the White House, however, on Thursday evening. It was given to the Diplomatic Corps. The invitations having been issued a week ago, Secretary Bayard specially requested the President that it should not be postponed.

Commissioner Sparks of the Land Office holds the awful tenor of his way against the land thieves out West. He has never been in the least perturbed by the threats of assassination he has received from persons to whom he has refused land patents. There is probably more indignation against him in Dakota than in any other locality. The Commissioner has just expressed his indefatigable in a letter sent to the Territory. He said; I do not propose to confirm fraudulent entries, and I do propose to find out those which are honest and to separate them from those which are found to be otherwise.

The Charms of Florida.

LAKK CITY, FLA., Dec. 20, 1885. Mr. Editor: As you well know, I am a newspaper writer, but have concluded to try and your many readers something of my travels to the "Land of Flowers."

Leaving Clearmont Depot on the 5 P. M. train, the 19th, almost before having time to think, we were at Kingville, and here comes the Charleston train, it takes one minute, the Conductor sings out "all aboard," and we are off, and Charleston is reached before time is allowed for a nap. A night's rest and then away on the C. & A. M. train for Jacksonville. Stopping 20 minutes at Savannah, we get breakfast—tough beef steak, boiling coffee, &c., and only 20 minutes for a countryman to eat 75 cents worth. Well, Mr. Editor, the writer and his companion did their duty as far as possible, in the time allowed. But all aboard, and we are off again at the customary break-neck speed, and Jacksonville is reached in due time. Well here we are, and at least twenty porters pulling at us, each one representing the "Best Hotel" in the city. As we cannot patronize them all, we take a hack for the "Grand Union" and at 1:10 P. M. are in our room brushing up a little, preparatory for dinner, and a view of Jacksonville. A square meal and an evening spent in walking, looking and talking, prepare us for tea and a good night's sleep. At six next morning we are up and after a light breakfast are off for Lake City, and 10:30 finds us at our destination. Lake City is surrounded by all the beauties that any town or city can boast of. Orange groves laden with their golden fruit, large live oaks fringed with long grey moss and a beautiful lake in 150 yards of Main street, go to make up some of its attractions. After a struggle with the porters we are conducted to the "Borum House," a most excellent hotel, kept by Mrs. Borum. Here I leave my travelling companion, and meet my friend, Dr. Chalker, of the firm of Chalker & Bro., who made me feel at home by his kind and courteous attention.

At the *Guide* newspaper office I was agreeably surprised to meet a genuine South Carolinian, Mr. W. H. Wilson, senior editor of the *Guide*, whom I found most obliging in giving me all the information needed. A good night's rest followed by an equally good breakfast, and Mr. Wilson and I are off in a buggy for his country seat, "Wilson," 14 miles West of Lake City. Passing through Leesburg, 7 miles West of Lake City, where there is an extensive saw mill business in operation, we proceeded to "Wilson," one of the most thriving of places, settled by thriving and well-to-do farmers.

Mr. Wilson, who is a Methodist minister, the latter quite handsome and newly painted, is near by. On Mr. W. H. Wilson's farm I saw a curious hog, the largest, I think, I ever saw. Mr. W. says he will weigh 600 lbs. when fat, and he says "we have always a plenty of hog and hominy, and consequently are a hominious people." And I would add that if anybody doubts these statements let them just call on him and his kind and hospitable wife, and he will be sure to give them a dollar along and here to my surprise, I found numerous farmers who raise their own food, and sell annually from 4,000 to 6,000 lbs. of meat. Two neat houses of one story each, with a Methodist church, the latter quite handsome and newly painted, are near by. On Mr. W. H. Wilson's farm I saw a curious hog, the largest, I think, I ever saw. Mr. W. says he will weigh 600 lbs. when fat, and he says "we have always a plenty of hog and hominy, and consequently are a hominious people." 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